

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AF-10 ARA-10
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1338
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 09802

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, PFOR, ENRG, MNUC, PARM, BE
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION:
PRELIMINARY BELGIAN REACTIONS

REF: STATE 184505

1. PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, EMBOFF CONVEYED TEXT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION ON AUGUST 10 TO AMBASSADOR FONTAINE (DIRECTOR OF SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY) AND HERPELS (DIRECTOR FOR NUCLEAR MATTERS, FOREIGN MINISTRY). POINTS RAISED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL WERE FULLY COVERED.
2. BELGIAN OFFICIALS WERE APPRECIATIVE OF THOROUGHNESS OF THE PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE, BUT HAD SEVERAL PRELIMINARY REACTIONS AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING PROCEDURES AND TIMING OF PROPOSED MID-OCTOBER CONFERENCE. BOTH FONTAINE AND HERPELS BELIEVE THAT FULL SCHEDULE OF
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MEETINGS ON NUCLEAR MATTERS IN SEPTEMBER AND EARLY OCTOBER (LONDON CLUB SEPTEMBER 20-21, IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 1, ZANGGER COMMITTEE MEETING, AND EURATOM SESSIONS) WILL MAKE IT HIGHLY DIFFICULT FOR EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS TO PREPARE ADEQUATELY FOR INFCE MEETING IN OCTOBER.

3. BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO LIKE TO UNDERTAKE EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION INTERNALLY, BOTH AMONG INTERESTED AGENCIES AND WITH BELGIUM'S LARGE PRIVATE SECTOR NUCLEAR INDUSTRY PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE. FOR THE FOREGOING REASONS, FONTAINE AND HERPELS SUGGEST INSTEAD THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDER HOLDING INFCE MEETING IN NOVEMBER.

4. ON OTHER PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, FONTAINE AND HERPELS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHAT COUNTRIES WILL BE INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE. THEY ARE ALSO UNCLEAR WHETHER TWO-YEAR TIMEFRAME ENVISAGED FOR THE EVALUATION MEANS SOME KIND OF SEMI-PERMANENT SECRETARIAT. OTHER QUERIES WERE ON HOW MANY MEETINGS OF GROUPS AND SUBGROUPS ARE CONTEMPLATED, LENGTH OF PLENARY CONFERENCE SESSIONS, ETC. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT REFTEL ADDRESSEES ARE THE PROSPECTIVE INVITEES BUT WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION BEFORE PASSING THIS INFORMATION TO BELGIAN OFFICIALS. FURTHER DETAILS ON HOW INFCE SECRETARIAT SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED BY BELGIANS.

5. FONTAINE AND HERPELS PROMISED TO GIVE US BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S SUBSTANTIVE VIEWS ON INFCE TERMS OF REFERENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CHAMBERS

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